

HONORING THE MINISTRY OF
CARING OCTOBER 24, 2007

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today and recognize the Ministry of Caring on its 30th anniversary. Over the past three decades this remarkable charity has done extensive work with underprivileged populations in my home state of Delaware. This important milestone is cause for much celebration.

The Ministry of Caring began when its founder, Brother Ronald Giannone, set out on a mission to provide the poor with hospitality, friendship, and basic needs in such a way that would enable them to become independent and self-sufficient. Brother Ronald was unaware of his impact at the time, but he was actually setting out on a mission that would later become Wilmington's largest charity for the poor. Brother Ronald's vision first took shape in 1977 with the creation of the Mary Mother of Hope House, a shelter for homeless and destitute women. From there, the ministry's vision spread throughout our community at staggering speeds. The Ministry of Caring now operates nearly 30 facilities throughout the greater Wilmington area. Through these facilities, the Ministry runs over a dozen programs geared toward providing the poor with food, shelter, clothes, healthcare, and other essentials. Furthermore, the organization provides tools of empowerment such as job training and placement; resources that address root causes of poverty.

Though the ministry remains focused on helping disadvantaged populations, I can say from personal experience that the Delaware community as a whole is positively impacted by this organization. For many years now, my wife and I have had the privilege of volunteering our Thanksgivings at the Emmanuel Dining Room, serving meals to Delawareans in need. I cherish these opportunities because they allow me, and others just like me, to help less fortunate community members, while also spending quality time with family, friends, and fellow volunteers.

Recently the Ministry of Caring was given the highest possible score from the largest evaluator of charitable organizations in the world. While news of this accomplishment is certainly exciting, it is not at all surprising. The score affirms what many of us knew already: the ministry efficiently manages its finances, is worthy of the public's trust, and is highly regarded within its field.

On this 30th anniversary, I would like to recognize the many accomplishments of the Ministry of Caring. The hard work and dedication of its founder, Brother Ronald Giannone, along with its many employees and volunteers, have made these past 30 years a tremendous success. I highly commend this great organization for their immeasurable contributions to the state of Delaware and wish them all the best on this momentous anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISH-
MENT OF CROOK COUNTY, OR-
EGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the citizens of Crook County, Oregon who are celebrating the 125th anniversary of the establishment of their county this month.

The Enabling Act, creating Crook County from the southern portions of Wasco County, was approved and signed by the Governor of Oregon on October 24, 1882. He appointed 10 officials to govern the county: County Judge; 2 Commissioners; Assessor; County Clerk; Coroner; School Superintendent; Sheriff; Surveyor; and Treasurer.

Prineville, the county seat, is the oldest community in Central Oregon. In 1868 Barney Prine came to the Crooked River Valley and set up a blacksmith shop, saloon, and primitive country store along the banks of the Crooked River. A Post Office was established in 1871 and was named Prine in Barney's honor. The name of the Post Office was changed to Prineville in 1872.

The county is named after Major General George Crook, U.S. Army. General Crook was an 1852 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, a hero of the Snake Indian Wars, and, at the time of his death in 1890, was Commander of the Army's Department of the West.

When it was founded in 1882, Crook County encompassed an area of 8,600 square miles and had a population of only 2,500. In 1914 and 1916 Jefferson and Deschutes counties were carved out of Crook County leaving it at just under 3,000 square miles today, with a population of approximately 23,000.

Some of the more noteworthy events in the county's early history include: the building of the first county courthouse in the county seat of Prineville at a cost of \$5,474 in 1886; the first electrical service in Prineville in 1890; the first telephone service in the county in 1899; the opening of the first high school in 1905; and the first movie theater in 1909.

Between 1930 and 1940 Prineville became the nation's largest shipping point of pine lumber; in 1934 the Prineville Airport was dedicated; in 1940 the first dial telephones were installed in the county; and in 1952 the late Les Schwab opened his first tire store in Prineville, the very beginning of what is now one of the leading independent tire dealerships in the country with more than 7,000 employees and 400 stores throughout the western United States.

Today, Madam Speaker, the citizens of Crook County celebrate 125 years of rich pioneer heritage in their Central Oregon home, and look forward to an increasingly bright future in a growing and revitalized county. I am proud to represent the citizens of Crook County in the U.S. House of Representatives, and look forward to county's continued success.

HONORING TONYA G. JONES

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Tonya Jones, a small business leader and president of Mark IV Enterprises, Inc. in Nashville, as she is inducted into the 2007 Building Industry of Tennessee Hall of Fame.

Tonya Jones has been a trailblazer in the building industry throughout her career. She became involved in construction in Nashville in 1980, started her own business in 1985, and in 1986 was the first woman elected to serve on the Builders Board for the Home Builders Association of Middle Tennessee.

Tonya Jones was instrumental in the establishment of the Home Builders Association of Middle Tennessee's Legal Defense Fund, and was the first to urge that HBAMT move forward with litigation against a county for unfair housing policies. Additionally, she was highly influential in cementing the success of the Self-Insured Worker's Compensation Trust Fund as one of its founding Trustees.

Tonya Jones has been named a Life Director for the National Association of Homebuilders, and in 1995, she earned the Home Builders Association of Tennessee's highest honor, Builder of the Year. The Better Business Bureau recognized her integrity and ethics in business by naming her Ambassador of the Year in 2006.

In addition to these accomplishments, Tonya Jones has served on boards of directors for numerous organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, the Better Business Bureau, TRICOR, Nashville Metropolitan Planning Commission, U.S. Bank Regional Board, and Nashville's Metropolitan Board for Parks and Recreation.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Tonya Jones for her exemplary contributions in business and in our community, and in congratulating her on this well-deserved award.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
ON COMMENDING THE ALASKA
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD FOR
ITS SERVICE TO THE STATE OF
ALASKA AND THE CITIZENS OF
THE UNITED STATES

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor 586 members of the Alaska Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry who recently returned from their year-long deployment to southern Iraq and Kuwait. The guardsmen have been successfully serving as security forces in northern Kuwait and southern Iraq since October 2006, guarding camps and convoys heading into Iraq. The guardsmen come from all over my State, with members of the unit hailing from 80 different communities across Alaska including Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kodiak, Soldotna, Kenai, Nome, and many native villages. The unit also included National Guardsmen from New York, Mississippi, Illinois, Georgia, and Puerto Rico.